

**DOCKET NO.: 02-42 US****REMARKS**

This amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office action mailed to the Applicants on February 23, 2006. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-11 and 13-15 and objected to claims 12 and 16. The Examiner indicated that the objected claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment the Applicants rewrote the allowable claims in independent form. The Applicant canceled claims 11 and 12 without prejudice, and introduced the limitations of canceled claims 11 and 12 into claim 1. The amended claim 1 being the only independent claim in the subject application comprises the specific combination of the features of the vibrating pumping stage for the vacuum pump that distinguish it from the prior art references cited by the Examiner and clearly defines the claimed invention.

Since claims 7-10 and 12-15 are depended on the amended independent claim 1 it is believed that all these pending claims of the subject patent application are in condition for allowance.

The consideration of this Amendment and entry of it after final action is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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